

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Leonhardt *et al.*

Appl. No. To be Assigned

(Cont. Of U.S. Appl. No. 09/949,813;

Filed: September 12, 2001)

Filed: Herewith

Confirmation No.: To be Assigned

Art Unit: To be Assigned

Examiner: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket: P468 CON3
(1737.1910006/LEA/TUM)

For: **Method for Engrafting a Blood
Vessel (as amended)**

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to examination of the application. This Preliminary Amendment is provided in the following format:

(A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along

with clear instructions for entry; and

(B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments (37

C.F.R. § 1.111 and MPEP 714).

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net

addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No.
19-0036.

Amendments

In the Title:

Please substitute the following Title of the Invention for the pending Title of the
Invention:

Method for Engrafting a Blood Vessel

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15

Please add the following new claims 16-20:

16. A method of reloading a graft into a sheath introducer, comprising:
 - providing a graft having a distal spring portion;
 - providing a sheath introducer including a spool apparatus having a hand crank, wherein the spool apparatus includes a plurality of suture loops connected to the distal spring portion;
 - rotating the hand crank, thereby collapsing the distal spring portion into the sheath introducer.

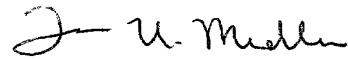
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the hand crank is rotated in a counterclockwise direction during the rotating step.
18. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
performing an angiogram.
19. A method of positioning a bifurcated graft within a contralateral iliac vessel, comprising:
providing a bifurcated graft housed within a sheath introducer, wherein the graft includes a contralateral limb and a primary limb;
deploying the primary limb of the graft from the sheath introducer into the aorta; and
deploying the contralateral limb of the graft from the sheath introducer when the sheath introducer has been withdrawn past the graft junction of the contralateral iliac vessel such that the contralateral limb is directed downward into the contralateral iliac vessel.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
positioning the contralateral limb using an insertion catheter.

Remarks

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 16-20 are pending in the application, with claims 16 and 19 being the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner give favorable consideration to the claims of the present application. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa U. Medler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,933

Date: 2/20/02

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600